

ACCEPTED 7-0

COLORADO RARE BIRD REPORT

CAROLINA WREN

Thryothorus ludovicianusLocation: the yard of Van Truan; Pueblo; Pueblo County; ColoradoDate: September 23, 1997

This bird was originally found by Van Truan in his Pueblo backyard. The area is an older residential area of town with lots of older, established plantings and large trees. Van helped me to find the bird and we observed it from 5:30 - 5:40 p.m. from about 20-40 feet distance. I used my B & L Elite 10x40 binoculars. Although the bird was often vocal in preceding weeks, it was silent during our observation. The light was decent - afternoon sun. The bird foraged actively about 10-20 feet high in trees, foliage clumps and along trunks and thicker branches.

Description:

This was a small, secretive, silent adult bird, about 4 1/2 " long. It had a relatively long, thin, dark, very sharp, slightly down-curved bill. The uppersides of this bird were fairly uniform, deep brown. It had a bright white supercilium, extending from just above and in front of the eye, to the nape. The cheek was gray. It had two weak, white wingbars and a black and brown checkered wing. It was warm, buffy, orange-brown below, lighter on the throat. The bird was tail-less as it had apparently either molted it or lost it somehow

Similar Species:

The small size, secretive habits overall brownish coloration and decurved bill indicate a wren. The white supercilium eliminates Winter, Canyon and House wrens. Marsh and Sedge wrens have patterned backs and the habitat is wrong. Rock Wren only has a weak superciliary and is a much grayer bird. Bewick's Wren is browner and lacks the rich buffy underparts. This bird was heard to sing the "tea kettle ... tea kettle..." song on other occasions

Experience with Species:

I have seen many Carolina Wrens including a couple previously in Colorado. I have experience with all North American Wrens.

This report is prepared from notes made after observation.

Mark Janos
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